110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2224

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand the definition of firefighter to include apprentices and trainees, regardless of age or duty limitations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2007

Mr. SESTAK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand the definition of firefighter to include apprentices and trainees, regardless of age or duty limitations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.**

4   (a) SHORT TITLE.— This Act may be cited as the

5 "Christopher Kangas Fallen Firefighter Fairness Act".

6   (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

7   (1) approximately 50 percent of all firefighters

8   start out as junior firefighters;

1   (2) Christopher Kangas was a 14 year old full

2   member of the Brookhaven, Pennsylvania Volunteer

3   Fire Department who tragically died when he was

4   hit by a car while he was responding on his bicycle

5   to a fire alarm; and

6   (3) because of his age, however, he is not recog-

7   nized under the Public Safety Officer's Death Ben-

8   efit Act nor was he considered eligible to have his

9   name added to the National Fallen Firefighter's Me-

10   morial in Emmetsburg, Maryland.

11 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES IN**

12   **DEFINITION OF FIREFIGHTER.**

13   Section 1204(4) of the Omnibus Crime Control and

14 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b(4)) is amend-

15 ed by inserting ", regardless of age, status as an appren-

16 tice or trainee, or duty restrictions imposed because of age

17 or status as an apprentice or trainee," after "fire depart-

18 ment".

19 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

20   The amendment made by this Act shall apply with

21 respect to deaths and injuries which occur on or after May

22 4, 2002.

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